

Remarks

Amendments to the claims

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled. New claims 31-47 have been added as indicated above.

Specifically, new claim 31 generally corresponds to claim 11 (now cancelled) rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of claim 1 (now cancelled) upon which claim 11 depends. New claim 40 generally corresponds to claim 15 (now cancelled) rewritten in independent form and including the substantive majority of the limitations of claims 12-14 (now respectively cancelled) upon which claim 15 depends. New claims 32-39 depend from new independent claim 31, while new claims 41-47 depend from new independent claim 40.

Support for this amendment is found at least in the specification at page 4, lines 8 to page 18, line 18. No new matter has been introduced by way of the amendments herein. The Applicant believes that new claims 31-47 are patentably distinct and are allowable.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, claim 1 (and claims 2-11 that depend thereon) recites the limitation “the imaging media receptacle”, wherein the Examiner has stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation within the claim.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1-22 as indicated above, the Applicant believes this rejection is now moot.

1 Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

2 Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 20 have been rejected under 35
3 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,228,678 to Matsuda et al.
4 ("Matsuda").

5 As claims 1-22 have been cancelled as indicated above, the Applicant
6 believes the respective rejections of claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 20 are
7 now moot.

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9 Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

10 Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable
11 over U.S. Patent No. 5,228,678 ("Matsuda"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,318,918 to
12 Sasaki et al.

13 Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable
14 over Matsuda, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,283,097 to Lundblad.

15 Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable
16 over Matsuda.

17 Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable
18 over Matsuda, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,113 to Morris.

19 As claims 1-22 have been cancelled as indicated above, the Applicant
20 believes the respective rejections of claims 3-6 are now moot.

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22 Allowable Subject Matter

23 The Examiner has indicated that claims 7, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 (now
24 cancelled, respectively) are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in
25 independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and
any respective intervening claims (page 5 of Office Action).

As indicated above, new independent claims 31 and 40 generally correspond to claims 11 and 15, respectively, rewritten in independent form and inclusive of the substantive majority or all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. As a result, the Applicant believes that new independent claims 31 and 40 are allowable. As new claims 32-39 and 41-47 depend upon new claims 31 and 40, respectively, the Applicant believes that new 32-39 and 41-47 claims are also allowable.

Summary

The Applicant believes that this response constitutes a full and complete response to the pending Office Action. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests consideration on the merits of new claims 31-47 in favor of timely allowance thereof.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the below-signed representative if the Examiner believes this will facilitate prosecution toward allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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